GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1966
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
TRANSFUSION OF SAFE BLOOD
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is increase in death rate due to non-availability of safe blood to the needy patients; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make available the safe blood to the patients whose treatment depends on transfusion?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) No, Sir. There is no data available which shows that there is an increase in death rate due to non-availability of safe blood to the needy patient.

(b) It is mandatory under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules to test each unit of blood, collected from all donors for freedom from HIV I & II antibodies, Hepatitis B Surface Antigen, Hepatitis C Antibody, Malaria and Syphilis before issue for transfusion. Also it is mandatory for all blood banks to obtain a licence from the Drug Control Authorities, who periodically check the blood banks to ensure compliance of the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, apart from ensuring, before issue of licence, that the blood banks have the infrastructure to carry out all the mandatory tests for safe blood.